Urban District Council of

FLOCKTON.

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FLOCKTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

To the Chairman and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Report on the health of your District during 1914.

The Population at the Census of 1911 was 1,379, and I have estimated it as being 1,423 at the middle of 1914. The great majority of the male inhabitants is engaged in the coal mining industry in the surrounding districts, and the young women work at mills in the neighbourhood. The Township itself provides no work for either men or women, excepting that coal under the area is being worked.

Water Supply.—The whole of the District is provided with an admirable supply of water, which is distributed from an open reservoir at Flockton Moor, which in turn is supplied from the Dewsbury Waterworks. The water, which is supplied by the Council, has a very slightly solvent action on lead, but no cases of lead-poisoning occurred during the year, with one (doubtful) exception.

3,604,000 gallons were supplied during 1914, giving a daily average per head of 6·9 gallons.

Drainage.—The village is only partly sewered, and the sewerage from this portion is dealt with at settling tanks by the side of Flockton Beck, which runs throughout the length of the Township. These tanks are at a considerable distance from any dwelling house, and no complaints of nuisances from them have been made. Haigh Lane, Lane End and The Green have no proper drainage system as yet, though arrangements for dealing with the latter two places are being proceeded with.

Closet Accommodation.—The regulation made by the Council that each closet should not be accommodation for more than two houses has lead to an improvement in property during recent years. The great majority of the closets are of the dry earth kind, but the Schools have eight pail closets, which are not satisfactory.

Scavenging.—Public Scavenging has been adopted since 1912, and has proved to be an advance on the old system. Very few complaints about over-full ashpits have been made this year, so evidently the work is being satisfactorily done. Many open ashpits have been covered in since 1912, and this has improved the appearance of property, and has also been of value from a public health point of view, as the dust from the refuse is not blown about and inhaled.

Sanitary Inspection.—The District has been regularly and thoroughly inspected during 1914. Only minor defects were found in the great majority of cases, and an interview with the owners has usually resulted in the defects being remedied. I find the owners of property very willing to discuss proposed repairs, and mostly very prompt in carrying them out.

Schools.—There are two Elementary Schools, both Non-Provided, and these were inspected on several occasions. Deficient ventilation and overcrowding of one classroom were reported to the Managers and have since been remedied.

Milk Supply.—Milk is supplied from dairies in the District, and also by dealers from outside. The dairies and milk utensils appeared on inspection to be kept clean, but the cow-sheds, on the whole, are rather short of light, though, as some are being rebuilt, this is being altered. No case of infectious disease appeared to be due to the milk supplied.

Housing.—During 1914 I inspected 179 houses under the Housing Regulations, 1910. No houses were found in such a condition as to be injurious or dangerous to health, so no closing orders were made or asked for. 27 houses were found with minor defects, such as deficient spouting and sink pipes. The principal point noted (and one to which I wish to draw your attention particularly) was the large proportion of houses overcrowded on the Local Government Board's basis of two persons to each room. I found 31 of the 179 houses, or 16 per cent., overcrowded, and several seriously so. These latter I brought to the notice of the Council during the year.

In the 179 houses, I found 26 with open drains, 29 drained into sumps, 2 drained directly into the beck, 10 had no ashpits, 32 had open ashpits, and 14 privies were in poor condition (four of these have since been replaced).

In these same 179 houses, 3 had only one room, 67 had two rooms, 56 had three rooms, 32 had four rooms, and 21 had more than four rooms.

During the year the Council built 10 five-roomed houses, making 28 under their ownership; and there are powers to build 10 others, which appear to be needed, as one-sixth of the houses inspected are overcrowded.

Acute Infectious Disease.—Fourteen cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1914, an increase on the past few years, due to a rather larger number of cases of Scarlet Fever. There is not much to note concerning these Scarlet Fever cases, excepting that they were not apparently connected with each other, and that five cases were notified as occurring in one house at Flockton Moor at the same time. I think Flockton has escaped lightly again, seeing that Scarlet Fever was so exceedingly prevalent generally throughout the County. There were no cases of Diphtheria or of Typhoid Fever; Influenza was below the average; Whooping Cough was prevalent in late summer and autumn, and Diarrhœa was rather marked in June and August.

Tuberculosis.—No case was notified during the year.

Births and Birth Rate.—There were 37 births (including one illegitimate) during the year, giving a nett Birth Rate of 26 per 1,000, the same as in 1913. The General Birth Rate for England and Wales was 23.

Deaths and Death Rate.—Twenty-one deaths were registered in the District, and two outside, giving a nett Death Rate of 16 per 1,000. This is much above the average for the District, and is caused by there having been five deaths of prematurely born Infants, and seven deaths in persons aged over 65 years. The General Death Rate for England and Wales was 14.

Zymotic Death Rate.—Nil.

Phthisis Death Rate.—Nil.

Infantile Death Rate.—There were six deaths of Infants, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 162 per 1,000 registered births. This is much above the average, and is caused, as I stated above, by there being five deaths of children born prematurely. The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales was 105.

	Births.			Deaths.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	5	7	12	2	—	2
2nd Quarter	5	8	13	4	3	7
3rd Quarter	4	3	7	3	2	5
4th Quarter	2	3	5	—	7	7
Total ...	16	21	37	9	12	21

The Notification of Births Act came into force in July, and under its provisions each birth must be notified within 36 hours to the County Medical Officer by the parent, and by the Doctor or Certified Midwife. To the 31st December 14 cases were so notified, and the Health Visitor visited 12 of the homes of the mothers.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. SMITH.

Stoneleigh,
Middlestown,
Nr. Wakefield,
27th March, 1915.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	1310	42	42	32·3	15	11·5	0	0	8	190	15	11 5
1910	1320	41	41	31·3	15	11·4	0	2	5	121	17	12·9
1911	1379	45	45	32·5	18	13	0	2	5	111	20	14·5
1912	1393	38	38	27	14	10	1	1	3	79	14	10
1913	1408	37	37	26·	14	10	0	2	3	81	16	11·3
1914	1423	37	37	26·0	21	14·7	0	2	6	162	23	16

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 1,065.

Total population at all ages, 1,379.
Total families or separate occupiers, 303. } At Census, 1911.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Erysipelas	2		1			1	
Scarlet Fever	11		5	5	1		4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1					
Totals ...	14	1	6	5	1	1	

Isolation Hospital—Kirkburton Joint Hospital.

Total available beds, 26.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes	21	6	1				1	6	7	
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	4						1	1	2	
Organic Heart Disease ...	1							1		
Bronchitis	2								2	
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	1	1								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	5	5								
Other Defined Diseases ...	7							4	2	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1		1						1	
Totals ...	21	6	1				1	6	7	

Infantile Mortality during the year 1914.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	Total under 1 month	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes Certified Uncertified						
Diarrhœa				1		1
Congenital Malformations	1		1			1
Premature Birth ...	4		4			4
Totals	5		5	1		6

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 36; Illegitimate, 1.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 6; Illegitimate Infants, 0.

FLOCKTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Water Supply—

Any developments during 1914 ? No.

Any insufficiency, and where ? No.

Any curtailment ? No.

Did any wells fail, and where ? None in use.

Any unsatisfactory quality, and where ? No.

Any unchecked plumbo-solvent action ? Slight.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Any developments during 1914 ? No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers. West End, Lane End, The Green.

Developments still needed as to (b) Improvement of defective sewers. None.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells ? No.

No. of sink-wastes disconnected during 1914, None. Trapped, 8.

Proportion of sink-wastes still needing disconnection, None. Untrapped, Few.

Closet Accommodation—

No. of Privies with open middens, 53. No. of Pail or Tub Closets, 8.

No. of Privies with covered middens, 178. No. of Water Closets, None. Waste-water Closets, None.

Are proper doors and coverings generally provided ? Yes.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1914—(a) as w.c.'s, None. (b) Other, 6.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1914—(a) w.c.'s, None. (b) other, 3.

No. of Closets constructed in 1914 for new houses (a) w.c.'s, None. (b) other, 15.

Scavenging—

How is refuse disposed of (a) Destructor, None. (b) Tips, all Village.

(c) Farmers, Flockton Moor. Total Annual Cost £50.

Is there any inadequacy, and where ? No.

Any change during 1914 ? No.

Nuisance Inspections—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1914, 14.

Informal Notices served, 10. Complied with, 10.

Statutory Notices served, None.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1913, 4. At close of 1914, None.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1914, 10. Abated during 1914, 14.

Total No of Summonses or other legal proceedings, None.

Common Lodging Houses, None.

Canal Boats, None.

Knackers Yards, None.

Offensive Trades, None.

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc. No.

Schools—

No. of Elementary Schools in District, 2.

No. of Visits to Schools, 4.

Action taken, Attention drawn to Ventilation of Classrooms and to Closets.

Milk Supply—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts, None.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination, None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows ? None.

No of animals notified by Police during 1914 under Tuberculosis Order, 1913, None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1914 ? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in District, 22. No. Registered, 22.

No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers, 22. No. who are Purveyors only, None. Total No. Registered, 22.

Total No. of Cowsheds, 28. No. of Inspections in 19 4, 12. General Condition, Clean, but Dark.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in District, 97. Any insufficiency of Milk Supply ? No.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders, None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent ? No.

Other Foods—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts, None.

No. of seizures of unsound food, None.

No. of Slaughter Houses, 4. No. Registered, None. Kind and Condition, Clean, Airy, Good Condition.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs, None ; (b) Unsound Food, None ; (c) re Slaughter Houses, None.

Factories and Workshops—

Any Smoke Nuisance, and where ? No.

No. of Smoke Observations taken, None.

Adoptive Acts—

Acts adopted during 1914, None.

For Rural Districts—Any Urban Powers obtained in 1914 ? None.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Any adopted during 1914? None.

Are any other Bye-Laws needed? Bye-Laws need revision.

Infectious and other Diseases—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1914? Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough.

What special action to combat same? None.

Is Hospital accommodation adequate and sufficient? Yes.

What arrangement for the supply of antitoxin? Supplied by Council.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list? No.

Any influences threatening the health of the District? No.

Special Reports and Investigations—

None.

Tuberculosis—

(1) Action re Spitting, None (2) Shelters provided, 1. (3) Is Sputum examined? Yes.

Bacteriology—

Is County Laboratory utilised? Yes.

Infant Mortality—

What organised effort to control it? None

Any Baby Clinic, Baby's Welcome, or Mother's League? No.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1914, Premature Birth.

Vital Statistics—

BIRTHS during 1914—Males, 16. Females, 21. Total, 37.

No. illegitmate included in above, 1. No. of Still Births (not included), None.

DEATHS during 1914—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction, 21.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated.

Males, 9. Females, 13. 23.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above), None.

Miscellaneous—

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents, None.

(b) for infectious cases other than at Hospital, None.

No. of Burial Boards, 2. Any need for extension ? No.

Are there any ill-placed fowl runs in district ? No.

Any nuisance therefrom or action in relation thereto ? No.

Sanitary Staff—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H. ? £20.

Name of Sanitary Inspector, J. W. Smith.

Annual Salary of Inspector, £2 10s. 0d.

Other appointments held, Road Surveyor.

Salary for such other appointments, £65.

Any Assistants ? One.

Is Staff sufficient ? Yes.

Housing—

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1913—

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation. (Section 15.) None.

Houses totally unfit for human habitation. (Section 17.) None.

Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts), 10.

Houses inspected under the Act and Regulations in 1914, 179.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection, 151.

Action under Section 15—

Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation, None.

Houses for which notices were given to execute works, None.

Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with, None.

Houses in respect of which the Local Authority executed or were executing works in default of Landlord, None.

Houses in respect of which Landlord elected to close house instead of complying with notices, None.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 15, owing to the tenancy having commenced before December 3rd, 1909—

Houses found with defects, 28.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1914.

Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts.) 18.

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910? Dr. J. A. Smith, Middlestown.

Any Regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec 17 (7)? No.

Other Actions in regard to Housing—

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where? Houses still required in the Village.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where? Yes, generally.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1914? 4.

Any special activity in house building, and where? No.

Number of new Houses built during 1914 (a) Working-class dwellings, None. (b) other, None.

Any working-class dwellings erected during 1914 by Sanitary Authority.—Please give number and type:—10 Five-roomed, brick and slate.

Are Sanitary Authority contemplating erection of working-class dwellings? Please give number and type:—Yes. 10 others.

Town Planning—

Any scheme prepared during 1914? If so, give details, No.

Any scheme contemplated? If so, for what area? No.

Signed,

J. A. SMITH,

27th March, 1915. Medical Officer of Health.